

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 and 27-34 are pending in this application. Claims 26 and 35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 10, 15-18, 21, 27, and 30 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 26, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection. Claims 26 and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection moot with respect to these claims.

35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1-3, 6-13, 15-17, 19-20, 23-25, 27-29, and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Shapiro, U.S. Patent No. 5,991,810.

Claims 4, 5, 14, 18, 21, 22, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapiro, U.S. Patent No. 5,991,810 and Krishnamurthy et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,578,113. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments for the following reasons.

According to the present invention, information of a server is distributed over the Internet through an arrangement that includes an original information possessing server 3

connected through a fire wall 2 to at least one replica server 8 that has the objective to possess a copy of the information of server 3 for distribution of the information over the Internet to a user terminal 1. The firewall 2 controls access to an intra-company network (LAN), to which server 3 is connected, from the Internet side of the firewall, to which replica 8 is directly or indirectly connected. The firewall 2, shown in Figure 2, only allows access to the server 3 from the replica server 8. Request for access originating from the Internet side of the firewall 2 to server 3 is not permitted, except from the replica server 8. As a result, a user at a user terminal 1 on the Internet is able to access the replica 8, which holds copies of the files in server 3, but the user cannot directly access the server 3.

Claim 1 has been amended to set forth that the access control system of the invention comprises a first information processing device, such as a server on one side of a fire wall, and an access control device, such as a fire wall, in combination with a second information processing device, such as a replica server, wherein the Internet connects with a third information processing device, such as a user terminal, for requesting access to the information possessed by the first information processing device. When access to the information in the first information processing device is requested, the second information processing device sends a copy of the information to the third information processing device, if it is possessed by the second information processing device. Further, the access control device controls access to the first information processing device from the Internet by only granting access requests from the second information processing device.

Claim 10 sets forth an access control device for controlling access to a first information processing device possessing information connected to a local area network, from at least one

second information processing device connected to the Internet and having copies of information possessed by the first information processing device. A receiving unit receives access requests from the Internet and a control unit checks the transmit sources for the received access requests and approves access only when the transmit source of an access request is the second information processing device.

Claim 15 is directed to an information distributing device connected to a local area network in combination with a control unit that creates rewritten information from information held by the information distributing device, and a communications unit that communicates with an access control device for controlling access to the local area network from the Internet. The communications unit receives an access request for information from an information processing device connected to the Internet, and, if possessing a copy of the information, sends information rewritten by the control unit. Claim 27 is directed to the second information processing device of the invention which communicates with the first information processing device and connects, by way of an access control device to a local area network. The access control device controls the connection between the local area network and the Internet and the memory section of the second information processing device stores a copy of the information held in the first information processing device. When information from the first information processing device is not held in a memory section, information is acquired by the communications unit from the first information processing device. A control section calculates rewrite information of the acquired information and the communications unit sends the calculated rewrite information to another second information processing device.

None of claims 1, 10, 15 and 27 is anticipated by Shapiro, which is relied upon for

disclosing first and second information processing devices and an access control device. However, the first information processing device of the present invention is connected to a local area network or intranet, while the web server of Shapiro is connected with the Internet. Therefore, the web server of Shapiro is not comparable to the first information processing device (claims 1, 10 and 27) or the information distributing device (claim 15) claimed by Applicants. Further, Shapiro does not disclose providing access to a first information processor from a user on the Internet through a fire wall to allow access only by the second information processing device, as claimed by Applicants in claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 18 sets forth a second information processing device communicating with a first information processing device connected to a local area network by way of an access control device. The memory section of the second information processing device has a copy of information held in the first information processing device and a receiving unit acquires first rewrite information relating to the original information of the copy from the first information processing device. A control unit makes a second rewrite information relating to the copy and compares the second rewrite information with the acquired first rewrite information of the original. A transmit unit issues a transmit request of the original information when the first and second rewrite information are different. A comparison of the second rewrite information with the first rewrite information is also set forth in claim 21. In claim 30 the information distributing system sets forth a plurality of second information processing devices connected to the first information processing device, which is connected to a local are network by way of an access control device. The memory section of the second information processing devices has a

copy of information held in the first information processing device. A communications unit acquires first rewrite information relating to a copy of this information held by the first information processor, and a control unit makes a second rewrite information relating to the copy of information possessed by the memory section and compares the second and first rewrite information. Shapiro does not disclose the claimed combination set forth in independent claims 18, 21, and 30. Further, reliance on the Krishnamurthy patent does not overcome the deficiencies noted above with respect to the Shapiro patent. Accordingly, the combination of Shapiro and Krishnamurthy does not render independent claims 18, 21 and 30 obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

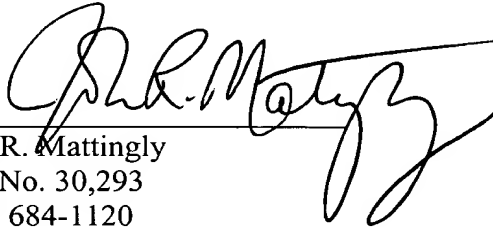
The remainder of the pending claims are dependent from the base claims asserted to be patentable for the foregoing reasons, and therefore should also be found to be patentable. Accordingly, pending claims 1-25 and 27-34 are patentable over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

By 
John R. Mattingly
Reg. No. 30,293
(703) 684-1120

JRM/so

Date: October 31, 2005